



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/754,573	01/12/2004	Masanori Hashimoto	25918	8241
20529	7590	11/15/2007		
NATH & ASSOCIATES 112 South West Street Alexandria, VA 22314			EXAMINER CHIO, TAT CHI	
			ART UNIT 2621	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/15/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/754,573	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HASHIMOTO, MASANORI	
	<b>Examiner</b> Tat Chi Chio	<b>Art Unit</b> 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/14/2007 and 3/19/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasawa et al. (5,877,906) in view of Kuroda (US 6,311,011 B1).

**Consider claims 1 and 3,** Nagasawa et al. teach a control apparatus connected to a plurality of target apparatuses via a communication line, comprising:

- recording subunit display means for displaying a list of recording subunits, installed in said plurality of target apparatuses (col. 7, lines 40-50)
- recording subunit selection means for accepting a selection of recording subunits, on which data is to be recorded, from the list of recording subunits displayed on the screen by said recording subunit display means (col. 7, lines 40-50);
- recording option selection means for accepting a selection of simultaneous recording or continuous recording (20 of Fig. 2 and col. 7, lines 40-50);
- said simultaneous recording being a recording mode in which data is recorded simultaneously on the recording subunits selected through said recording subunit selection means (col. 8, lines 4-7), said continuous

recording being a recording mode in which data is recorded on the recording subunits, selected through said recording subunit selection means, in an order in which the recording subunits are selected (col. 7, lines 58-67);

- transmission route establishment means for establishing a data transmission route of the recording subunits according to which recording mode, simultaneous or continuous, is selected through said recording subunit selection means (col. 5, lines 5-8 and 21 of Fig. 2).

However, Nagasawa et al. do not explicitly teach recording subunit display means for displaying a list of recording subunits on a screen.

Kuroda teaches recording subunit display means for displaying a list of recording subunits on a screen (Fig. 5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a screen displaying recording subunits to provide users with a user-friendly interface to select recording subunits.

**Consider claims 2 and 4,** Nagasawa et al. teach the control apparatus wherein, when said simultaneous recording is selected, said transmission route establishment means establishes the data transmission route for the recording subunits selected through said recording subunit selection means (21 of Fig. 2, col. 5, lines 5-8, and col. 8, lines 4-7) and wherein, when said continuous recording is selected, said transmission route establishment means establishes the data transmission route for a recording subunit selected first through said recording subunit selection means and, when the

recording subunit selected first becomes inoperable to record data, establishes the data transmission route for a recording subunit selected next through said recording subunit selection means (21 of Fig. 2, col. 5, lines 5-8, and col. 7, lines 58-67).

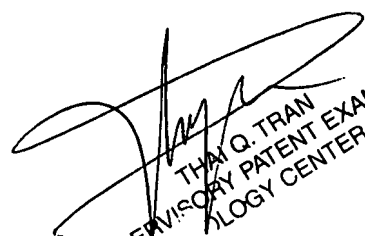
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tat Chi Chio whose telephone number is (571) 272-9563. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM-6:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on (571)-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TCC

  
THAI Q. TRAN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
EBC CENTER 2600